

52



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/735,488	12/14/2000	Masatoshi Takaira	018656-196	8369
21839	7590	07/29/2004	EXAMINER	
BURNS DOANE SWECKER & MATHIS L L P			LETT, THOMAS J	
POST OFFICE BOX 1404				
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2626	

DATE MAILED: 07/29/2004

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/735,488

Applicant(s)

TAKAIRA ET AL

Examiner

Thomas J. Lett

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, and 7-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 December 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed on 14 March 2001 is indicated on the file but is missing. Please re-submit.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: a period should be removed from each of lines 15 and 17. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claim 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miura et al (US Pub 2003/0090721 A1). With respect to claim 1, Miura et al discloses:

a scanner unit 52 scans an original image and outputs image data corresponding to the original image (para 65, lines 1-2 and see Fig. 12), which reads on an image reader that reads an image of the original document and generates image data,

a printer unit 53 outputs an image on a recording sheet according to image data (para 65, lines 3-4 and see Fig. 12), which reads on a printing unit that prints based on image data,

a bus line 61, connected to a scanner 53, printer 52, and external computer 71, (para 64, line 7 and see Fig. 12), which reads on a bus that transmits the image data generated by the image reader to an external computer and that transmits image data from the external computer to the printing unit,

a timer, which is started at a predetermined time and counts a clock signal (para 55, lines 21-22), which reads on a signal generator that generates a signal based on an operation timing of the printing unit, and

the CPU 7 performs the processes corresponding to the determining function and the path(bus) state switching function (para 58, lines 2-4), which reads on a switching means that, in response to the signal, switches the bus between transmission from the image reader to the external computer and transmission from the external computer to the printing unit.

Regarding claim 4, Miura et al discloses that the image memory 57 stores the image data generated by the scanner unit 52 (para 65, lines 6-8), which reads on a digital copying machine as claimed in claim 1, said bus includes a read buffer that temporarily stores the image data read by the image reader.

Regarding claim 5, Miura et al discloses that image memory 57 stores the image data received by the NCU 55 (para 65, lines 6-9), which reads on a digital copying machine as claimed in claim 1, said bus includes a print buffer that temporarily stores the image data sent by the external computer.

Claim 7 is a method claim and is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 10 is a method claim and is rejected for the same reasons as claim 4.

Claim 11 is a method claim and is rejected for the same reasons as claim 5.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miura et al (US Pub 2003/0090721 A1) in view of Tsuzuki et al (US Patent 6,480,968 B1). With respect to claim 2, Miura et al does not disclose expressly a signal generated by the signal generator is a clock signal issued based on an operation timing for each pixel. Tsuzuki et al discloses a pixel-corresponding clock signal in the timing signal outputted by the information source (col 3, lines 16-17). Miura et al and Tsuzuki et al are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of processing image data. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of

Art Unit: 2626

ordinary skill in the art to add the feature of Tsuzuki et al to the controller 8 of Miura et al in order to generate a clock signal. The motivation for doing so would be to generate a signal based on an operation of printing or scanning a pixel.

Claim 8 is a method claim and is rejected for the same reasons as claim 2.

5. Claims 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miura et al (US Pub 2003/0090721 A1) in view of Kashihara (US Patent 5,742,317 A). With respect to claim 3, Miura et al does not disclose expressly a signal generated by the signal generator is a horizontal synchronization signal issued based on an operation timing for each line. Kashihara discloses that each time the horizontal sync signal BD (generated by a sync clock generation circuit 22) is received, the printer controller 202 transmits the VDO signals of an amount corresponding to one line of the main scan synchronously with the image clock signal VCLK which is sent from the signal processing circuit 205 (col 10, lines 10-14). Miura et al and Kashihara are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of processing image data. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the feature of Kashihara to the controller 8 of Miura et al in order to obtain a signal generator to generate a horizontal synchronization signal. The motivation for doing so would be to control the printing of image data.

Claim 9 is a method claim and is rejected for the same reasons as claim 3.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claim 6 is allowed.

Art Unit: 2626

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record, including Miura et al, Tsuzuki et al, and Kashiara, fails to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, a signal generator that generates horizontal synchronization signals issued based on an operation timing for each line in the printing unit, and switching means that, in response to a rise and a fall of the horizontal synchronization signals, switches the bus between transmission from the image reader to the external computer and transmission from the external computer to the printing unit, whereas scan image data for one line taken out of the read buffer and print image data for one line taken out of the print buffer are alternately transferred via the bus.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Lett whose telephone number is 703-305-8733. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached at 703-305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2626

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC 20231

or Faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only).

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

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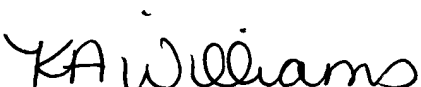
2121 Crystal Drive

Arlington, VA

Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

TJL




KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER